

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 00014 with the following amended paragraph:

[00014] In another embodiment, a posterior device for replacing functions of a facet joint comprises: a first component comprising an elongated body; and a first joint having a first opening wherein the first opening contains an elastic material; a second component comprising: an elongated body; and a second joint having a second opening wherein the second joint is coupled with the first joint, and the second opening contains the elastic material; and a connector covering the ~~[[first]]~~ first joint and the second joint wherein the connector comprises the elastic material.

Please replace paragraph 00045 with the following amended paragraph:

[00045] The first component 420 may comprise a tip 408, an elongated body 406, which may be a rod or shaft, and a joint 402. The tip 408 may be pointed, and adapted for a percutaneous insertion of the posterior device 400, which may entail pushing the posterior device 400 through tissues of an animal body. The joint 402 comprises an opening ~~[[402]]~~ 404, which may contain any biocompatible elastic material, such as rubber, silicon or shape memory alloys, to facilitate motions of the posterior device 400.